

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Withdrawn) A medical device coated according to the method of claim 1.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for coating at least a portion of a medical device, comprising:

(a) providing [[a]] an implantable medical device having a portion that has a surface adapted for exposure to body tissue of a patient;

(b) grounding the surface; and

(c) applying to the surface a coating formulation comprising a polymeric material and a solvent selected from a group consisting of tetrahydrofuran, chloroform, toluene, acetone, isooctane, 1,1,1-trichloroethane and mixtures thereof, said step of applying comprising the steps of:

(1) providing a nozzle apparatus comprising a chamber connected to at least one opening for dispensing the coating formulation;

(2) placing the coating formulation into the chamber;

(3) electrically charging the coating formulation;

(4) creating droplets of the electrically charged coating formulation; and

(5) depositing the droplets of coating formulation onto the grounded surface to form a coating on the surface.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the nozzle apparatus further comprises a conductor that connects the chamber to a voltage power source.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the conductor is an electrode and the coating formulation is electrically charged by flowing the coating formulation across the electrode.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein step (c) is repeated at least one time.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein step (c) is repeated using a second coating formulation.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the coating formulation further comprises a biologically active material.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the droplets of coating formulation are deposited at a flow rate of about 0.02 ml/min to about 0.01 ml/min.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the coating formulation has a volumetric resistivity of from about 107 ohm-cm to about 1010 ohm-cm.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the coating formulation has a viscosity of from about 1 cps to about 20,000 cps.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the coating formulation is electrically charged by a voltage power source having a voltage of about 8kV to about 12 kV and a current of about microamp 5 to about 40 microamp.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the polymeric material comprises ~~is selected from the group consisting of polyurethanes,~~ silicones, polyesters, polyolefins, polyisobutylene, ethylene-alphaolefin copolymers, acrylic polymers and copolymers, vinyl halide polymers, polyvinyl ethers, polyvinylidene halides, polyacrylonitrile, polyvinyl ketones, polyvinyl aromatics, polyvinyl esters, copolymers of vinyl monomers, copolymers of vinyl monomers and olefins, polyamides, alkyd resins, polycarbonates, polyoxymethylenes, polyimides, polyethers, epoxy resins, polyurethanes, rayon-triacetate, cellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose butyrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, cellophane, cellulose nitrate, cellulose propionate, cellulose ethers, carboxymethyl cellulose, collagens, chitins, polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid, polylactic acid-polyethylene oxide copolymers, ethylene-propylene-diene monomer [[EPDM]] rubbers, fluorosilicones, polyethylene glycol, polysaccharides, phospholipids, [[and]] or combinations of the foregoing.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the solvent is chloroform and the polymeric material is styrene-isobutylene-styrene.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the polymeric material is about 1 to about 15 weight % of the coating formulation.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the polymeric material has a melting point that is lower than the decomposition temperature of the biologically active material.

34. (Currently Amended) A method for coating at least a portion of a medical device, comprising:

(a) providing [[a]] an implantable medical device having a portion that has a surface adapted for exposure to body tissue of a patient;

(b) grounding the surface; and

(c) applying to the surface a coating formulation comprising a polymeric material, a biologically active material, and a solvent, wherein the solvent is selected from a group consisting of tetrahydrofuran, chloroform, toluene, acetone, isooctane, 1,1,1-trichloroethane and mixtures thereof, said step of applying comprising the steps of:

(1) providing a nozzle apparatus comprising a chamber connected to at least one opening for dispensing the coating formulation;

(2) placing the coating formulation into the chamber;

(3) electrically charging the coating formulation;

(4) creating droplets of the electrically charged coating formulation; and

(5) depositing the droplets of coating formulation onto the grounded surface to form a coating on the surface.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the solvent is chloroform and the polymeric material is styrene-isobutylene-styrene.

36. (Previously Presented) A method for coating a surface of an implantable stent comprising:

(a) providing an implantable stent having a portion that has a surface adapted for exposure to body tissue of a patient;

(b) grounding the surface; and

(c) applying to the surface a coating formulation comprising a polymeric material, a biologically active material, and a solvent, wherein the solvent is selected from a group consisting of tetrahydrofuran, chloroform, toluene, acetone, isooctane, 1,1,1-trichloroethane and mixtures thereof, using a nozzle apparatus by:

(1) providing the nozzle apparatus comprising a chamber connected to at least one opening for dispensing the coating formulation;

(2) placing the coating formulation into the chamber;

(3) electrically charging the coating formulation;

(4) creating droplets of the electrically charged coating formulation; and

(5) depositing the droplets of coating formulation onto the grounded surface to form a coating on the surface.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the solvent is chloroform and the polymeric material is styrene-isobutylene-styrene.